(d) Loan amount outstanding against major Oil PSUs in the year 2007-08 were as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of Oil PSUs	Loan Outstanding as on 31.3.2007	Loan Outstanding as on 30.9.2007
ONGC	69.59	3.48
OIL	105.00	89.38
GAIL	1338.00	1295.00
IOCL	27083.00	27963.00
HPCL	10517.53	12126.47
BPCL	10829.24	9697.22

Progress of Indo-Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

816. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made regarding gas pipeline proposed to be laid by Iran, Pakistan and India indicating whether project has been found to be feasible;

(b) whether it is a fact that USA has asked India to drop the natural gas pipeline project with Iran;

(c) if so, what is the response of Government thereto;

(d) the financial loss to India, if this pipeline plan is dropped;

(e) whether there is fresh proposal of gas pipeline project from any other country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) India has been pursuing the import of naotural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. The project has been found to be feasible and various important issues are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran.

(e) and (f) In order to enhance Energy Security for the country, Government is also pursuing import of natural gas from Turkmenistan through Turkmenistan- Afghanistan-Pakistan- India (TAP) Transnational Gas Pipeline Project.

The Government of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have proposed a transnational gas pipeline to exploit the available gas reserves in Turkmenistan. They designated ADB as the lead development partner. ADB had carried out a study and approached India for participating in the project. The Cabinet has accorded an 'in principle' approval to the proposal

for India joining the TAP project. The revised draft Framework Agreement has been circulated amongst Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India for inclusion of India as an official member of the Project. The next meeting of the Steering Committee of the participating countries is proposed to be held soon.

Price of gas sold to Government and its nominees

817. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per clause 21.6.2(b) of PSC, Government is empowered to fix the price of the gas sold to Government or its nominees (i.e. power & Fertilixer PSUs); and

(b) if so, the reasons for no initiating action against the private player, who is not abiding by the clauses of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In terms of the provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed under the NELP regime, the Government does not fix the price of gas. The Government is required to approve the formula/basis on which the prices shall be determined for purpose of valuation of Government take prior to sale of natural gas by the contractor.

Further, contractors have the freedom to sell gas in the domestic market at arms length prices to the benefit of parties to the contract.

Non-payment of instalments to OVL by Sudan

818. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Sudan has not paid the two instalments to the ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) as per the acquisition agreement;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue with that country;

(c) if so, the response thereof;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to have the dues towards OVL released;

(e) whether the acquisition agreement provide for any emergency for such cases; and

(f) if so, whether Government proposes to evoke such provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (f) Govt. of sudan has paid all the instalments due and also interest thereof. The performance of responsibilities and obligations under the Pipeline Contract Agreement (PCA) are backed and guaranteed by the Government of Sudan through Sovereign Guarantee.

Guidelines for acquisition made abroad by Public Sector Oil Companies.

819. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of acquisition made by Public Sector Oil Companies in the last two years alongwith the cost of such acquisitions, and in how many of these fields, the production has actually commenced;